

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST MAJOR LONDON EXHIBITION FOR ICONIC ART NOUVEAU GLASGOW ARTIST AT 98

For immediate use

**The Exhibition: Hannah Frank, A Glasgow Artist: Drawings and Sculpture.
The Venue: Ivy House, 94 - 96 North End Road, London NW11 7SX (London Jewish Cultural Centre).
The Dates: Until Friday 15 December 2006.**

THE FIRST ever London solo exhibition has opened of the work of Glasgow artist Hannah Frank, who is now 98 years old and the last living link to the Scottish Art Nouveau period and Arts and Crafts movement.

The exhibition, which runs until 15 December, is at Ivy House, Golders Green, where the legendary ballerina Anna Pavlova lived until her death in 1931. The house is now home to the London Jewish Cultural Centre and the new exhibition provides an opportunity for Hannah Frank fans and newcomers to see not only her other-worldly drawings and a range of her works of sculpture but also the more personal, intimate side of the artist, through family sketches, self-portraits and extracts from her illustrated diaries.

Hannah Frank's distinctive black and white drawings and her sensuous sculptures have enjoyed a dramatic resurgence in interest in recent years, particularly in her 'native heath', Glasgow. Now the London art world is waking up to the stunning body of work this former Glasgow School of Art student produced over a 75 year career.

Said Fiona Frank, the artist's niece and champion: "When you see the quality of her work and consider her position within the art world it is amazing that this is the first time Hannah Frank has had a full solo exhibition in the nation's capital." Fiona will be at the LJCC's Chanukah Fair on 26 November where people can hear about Hannah's life and work and view some of her personal diaries and albums and buy prints and cards. (11am-4pm).

Michael Mail, chief executive of the UJS Hillel (Union of Jewish Students) and prize winning author, attended the exhibition: "These are haunting elegiac, moody dark pictures. When I first saw them on the front of the Scottish Jewish Archives magazine I sought out the artist: I telephoned her and was invited to meet her. It turned out that my great aunt, Belle Hochfield, who died young, was her best friend."

Naomi Games, daughter of celebrated artist, Abram Games: "It's very nice to see a woman exhibiting for a change - very graceful work."

Fiona Frank added: "It's said that in the 1960s every student bed-sit in Glasgow had a Hannah Frank print on its walls; her work also enjoyed a revival in the 1980s. Now we are bringing Hannah Frank's art to a whole new audience through a five year touring exhibition. After London we travel to Boston, USA, from January to April 2007, then to Doncaster and finally, on 23 August, Hannah's 100th birthday, the exhibition opens at Glasgow University."

Apart from her evening studies at the Glasgow School of Art Hannah also attended Glasgow University between 1927 and 1932 where she regularly provided illustrations for the university magazine, using the name Al Aaraaf. This is the title of a long poem by Edgar Allan Poe which had special significance for the young Hannah Frank. It was the name given by the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe to a mysterious star which suddenly appeared in the heavens, and after growing brighter and brighter for a few days, suddenly disappeared, never to be seen again.

Hannah was involved with several Glasgow Jewish groups for which she provided illustrations. In the 1950s, Hannah took up sculpture, studying with Benno Schotz, who was head of sculpture at the Glasgow School of Art, and who was later appointed the Queen's Sculptor in Ordinary. Hannah's drawings and sculpture have previously been exhibited in the Royal Glasgow Institute, the Royal Academy, and the Royal Scottish Academy.

When the London show finishes Hannah Frank will present her drawing 'Sun' from 1943, and which features in this exhibition, to the Ben Uri Gallery, the London Jewish Museum of Art.

David Glasser, Ben Uri Gallery Chairman: "I grew up in Glasgow and I've always known of her work so seeing this complete exhibition is just wonderful and the fact it's happened is largely due to the terrific effort Fiona Frank is making to help Hannah achieve her wish, in Longfellow's words, of leaving 'footsteps on the sands of time.'"

Hannah Frank: "I'm sad that I can't be at the London exhibition myself - at 98 my health is not all it was - but I'm glad that people in London are becoming as enthusiastic about my work as they are in Scotland."

Two Hannah Frank drawings and a sculpture are part of the permanent collection of the Glasgow Hunterian gallery and she is soon to present her 1930 drawing, 'Dusty Answer', to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art so by the end of the year she will have a permanent presence in Edinburgh and London as well as in Glasgow.

Further details: *Hannah Frank, A Glasgow Artist: Drawings and Sculpture runs until 15 December 2006 at the London Jewish Cultural Centre, Ivy House 94 - 96 North End Road, London NW11 7SX. T: 020 8457 5014. Exhibition opening times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 11am – 5pm; Friday 11am – 3pm*
Also see www.ljcc.org.uk

Ends

Notes for Editors:

Images and further information available from the website

<http://www.hannahfrank.org.uk>

High resolution pics are available as are photo opportunities with Hannah Frank (in Glasgow) and further information/interviews from:

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